

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 GAC-01 OMB-01 /139 W

----- 130281

R 061424 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8016

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2773

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, PINT, IS, XF

SUBJECT: US PUBLIC POSTURE ON INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE
IN JERUSALEM

REF: TEL AVIV 2713 NOTAL

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO INVITE DEPARTMENT' S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT
CONTROVERSY IS DEVELOPING IN ISRAEL OVER PROPRIETY OF HOLDING
LARGE IDF PARADE THIS YEAR AS MAIN EVENT IN CELEBRATION OF
STATE 25 TH ANNIVERSARY (REFTEL). CRITICISMS AMONG ISRAELIS,
INCLUDING HISTADRUT HEAD BEN- AHARON AND SOME CABINET LMEMBERS,
HAVE SO FAR BEEN DIRECTED MAINLY TOWARD EXPENSE OF PARADE. HOW-
EVER, CLEARLY IMPLICIT IN CONTROVERSY IS GROWING ISRAELI CONCERN
WITH ISRAEL' S IMAGE ABROAD, ESPECIALLY NOTION THAT ISRAEL IS BE-
COMING A MILITARISTIC COUNTRY. A FEW VOICES HAVE QUESTIONED ALSO
WISDOM OF CHOOSING EAST JERUSALEM AS SITE FOR DISPLAYING ISRAELI
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MILITARY MIGHT, THEREBY PROVOKING ARABS AND AGGRAVATING JERUSALEM ISSUE.

2. WE BELIEVE THIS DEVELOPMENT IS VERY HEALTHY SIGN, AND IN OUR VIEW IT WOULD BE REGRETTABLE FOR EXTRANEIOUS EVENTS TO DIVERT IT. QUICKEST WAY TO CAUSE ISRAELIS TO CLOSE RANKS IN FAVOR OF PARADE WOULD BE FOR CRITICISM ABROAD OF PARADE TO MOUNT. VALUE OF DOMESTIC CONTROVERSY OVER HOLDING OF PARADE AS WE SEE IT IS INTROSPECTION ON ISRAEL' S NATIONAL PRIORITIES WHICH IT HELPS TO FEED. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AT THIS LATE DATE, EITHER DOMESTIC CRITISM OR REMONSTRATIONS FROM ABROAD COULD RESULT IN PARADE' S CANCELLATION.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON CAREFULLY AVOID PUBLIC COMMENT ON HOLDING OF PARADE. EMBASSY APPRECIATES THAT AS DATE OF PARADE APPROACHES, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR US SPOKESMEN TO REMAIN SILENT ON SUBJECT. WE HAVE NOTED APRIL 3 LOS ANGELES TIMES EDITORIAL CRITICIZING USG FOR REMAINING SILENT ON PACADE UP TO NOW, ASSERTING THAT CONTRAST OF PRESENT US POSTURE WITH ACTIVE US OPPOSITION TO 1968 PARADE AND US SUPPORT FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL MOVE AT THAT TIME RISKS MISUNDERSTANDING OF US POSITION TODAY ON STATUS OF JERUSALEM. WHILE US MEDIA MAY CONTINUE COMMENTING ALONG THESE LINES, WE BELIEVE THAT IN DUE COURSE SOME EMBASSY IN ISRAEL IN REPLY TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WILL REVEAL THAT GOI DECIDED THIS TIME NOT TO INVITE DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO ATTEND PARADE, AND IT MAY BE HOPED THAT EVENTUAL PUBLICITY RE THIS GOI DECISION WILL TEND TO UNDERCUT US MEDIA PURSUANCE OF LINE CRITICAL OF US SILENCE.
ZURHELLEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV02773
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730436/aaaahvly.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 TEL AVIV 2713 NOTAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971205
Subject: US PUBLIC POSTURE ON INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE IN JERUSALEM
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, PINT, IS, XF, PBOR, PINT
To: AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
JERUSALEM
JIDDA
LONDON
NEA

SECSTATE WASHDC

USUN

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005